

REMARKS

The foregoing remarks are responsive to the non-final Office Action issued March 18, 2004. Claims 1-6 are pending. Applicants have editorially amended claims 1-6 for allowance. Applicants thank Examiner for recognition of the allowable subject matter of claims 1-6 and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Objections

The Action objected to layout of the specification, specifically objecting to the absence of headings. Responsive to the objection, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings consistent with the Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Action rejected claims 1-6 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the claimed invention. Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Action specifically rejected independent claim 1 for the claim feature *said distance detector is noticeably displaced out of the tubular piece*. The Action asserts that the “distance detector is displaced relative to the tubular piece, but does not extend out of the tubular piece after it is displaced.” Applicants have editorially amended claim 1, specifically replacing “out of” with “relative to” as proposed in the Action. Claims 2-6, ultimately depend from claim 1, and were rejected for the same reason as independent

claim 1. For at least the same reasons as claim 1 and further in view of the novel features recited therein, claims 2-6 are allowable.

Additionally, the Action recites that the claim 6 feature *with sloping faces (8)* is inaccurate. Claims 1-6 have been editorially amended and the reference numbers, including the number "8" alleged in the Action to be inaccurate, have been removed.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number. Applicants have included payment of the one month extension fee. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2004

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